

DO APNS HAVE TO BE SUPERVISED?

ANPs, CNMs and CNSs with prescriptive authority maintain a current collaborative practice agreement with a physician who agrees to be available for consultation and referral. Arkansas law does not require the physician to be at the same site as the APN.

CRNAs are required to work under the supervision of, but not necessarily in the presence of, a physician or dentist.

APNs collaborate with physicians and other health care professionals as needed to provide for the health care needs of their patients.

APNs are health care professionals who can:

- ◆ Provide diagnosis and treatment of health problems
- ◆ Focus on the effects health problems have on the patient and the family
- ◆ Explain health problems and the effects of medications
- ◆ Emphasize wellness and self-care
- ◆ Manage their own caseload

FOR MORE INFORMATION....

Advanced Practice

Licensure, Complaints

Prescriptive Authority (501) 686-2706

Office Hours 8:00 – 4:30 M - F

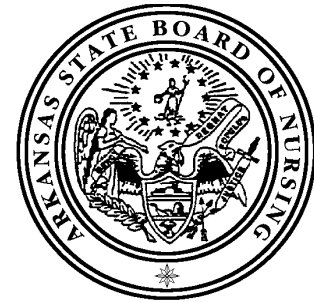
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ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSES



ANP
CNM
CNS
CRNA

Health Care
Professionals

WHAT IS AN APN?

An Advanced Practice Nurse (APN) is a registered nurse (RN) who has completed an advanced nursing educational program and holds certification from a nationally recognized certifying body approved by the Board. Certification must be in the category and specialty for which the APN is educationally prepared. The Arkansas State Board of Nursing recognizes four categories of APNs: Advanced Nurse Practitioner (**ANP**); Certified Nurse-Midwife (**CNM**); Clinical Nurse Specialist (**CNS**); and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (**CRNA**).

APNs provide for the health care needs of patient populations in their specialty area which is determined by their education and certification.

As health care professionals, they focus on individual care and the effects health problems have on the patient and family. Health education and wellness are major emphases in their practice.

HOW DO THE APNS DIFFER?

ANP

The advanced nurse practitioner provides for the health care needs of patients through advanced assessment, identification of health states including abnormal conditions, diagnosing, treatment and evaluation. As health care providers, ANPs perform physical examinations; order, perform and interpret lab and x-ray studies; diagnose and treat acute health problems such as infections and injuries; diagnose, treat and monitor chronic conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure; and provide health maintenance, screenings and immunizations. ANP specialties approved by the Board include acute care, adult, family, gerontological, neonatal, pediatric, psychiatric and mental health, school nurse and women's health.

CNM

The certified nurse-midwife manages health care of women with a focus on pregnancy, childbirth, post delivery care of the mother and newborn. The CNM also provides family planning and gynecological care. They work within a health care system that provides for consultation, collaborative management or referral as indicated by the health status of the patient.

CNS

The clinical nurse specialist has advanced knowledge and practice skills in a specialized area of clinical nursing practice. The CNS performs advanced assessments, analyses and evaluations of individuals, families and communities. As an advanced clinician in a specialty area, the CNS develops, implements and evaluates comprehensive treatment plans. The CNS also consults with the public and professionals in health care, business and industry in areas of research, case management, education and administration. Specialty certifications recognized by the Board include psychiatric and mental health, community health, gerontological, medical-surgical and pediatric.

CRNA

The certified registered nurse anesthetist administers anesthetics under the supervision of a physician. Hospitals or institutions may permit a CRNA to act as their agent and order controlled substances under their DEA registration. CRNAs may then order drugs preoperatively and postoperatively in connection with the anesthetic and/or other operative procedure or invasive procedure. The CRNA, like all APNs, is responsible for complying with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations related to medications.

CAN APNS PRESCRIBE?

The APN is required to have a Certificate of Prescriptive Authority issued by the Board of Nursing in order to prescribe. Prescribing is limited to the APN's scope of practice which is defined by the APN's national certification. To obtain the certificate, the APN must complete an advanced pharmacology course with a preceptorship, work as an APN for a defined period and have a collaborative practice agreement with a physician.



After obtaining the certificate of prescriptive authority the APN can apply for a DEA number, which allows prescribing Schedule III, IV and V controlled substances.

WHERE DO APNS PRACTICE?

Advanced practice nurses work in almost any setting where health care is delivered. Listed below are common worksites where the APN may practice:

- ◆ Hospitals and hospital clinics
- ◆ Physician offices
- ◆ Rural Health Clinics
- ◆ Public Health Centers
- ◆ Nursing Homes and Hospices
- ◆ Schools
- ◆ Health Maintenance Organizations
- ◆ Home Care Agencies
- ◆ Business/Industry Employee Health